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US Nomination of a New Man to the Paris Talks: a Backdown from an Arrogant Move

Says DRVN Foreign Minister
to VNA Correspondent

DRVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh granted an interview to a Vietnam News Agency correspondent on current events. Following are the questions and answers:

Question: Would you please, Comrade Minister, comment on the US President's July 1 statement on Viet Nam?

Answer: The US President's July 1 statement proved that no change had been brought to the Nixon administration's policy of aggression against Viet Nam. The US is continuing its "Vietnamization" to prolong the war in South Viet Nam while intensifying its armed intervention in Laos and going on with its aggression in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The US President only reiterated US position maintained at the Paris Conference for more than a year now: "mutual withdrawal" and continuance in office of the Thieu-Ky-Rieu puppet administration to deny the right to self-determination to the South Vietnamese people.

Question: What do you think, Comrade Minister, of the appointment of a new US chief delegate to the Paris Conference?

Answer: It has always been the opinion of the DRVN Government that the absence of progress at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam is due to the US persistence of its policy of aggression and its obdurate stance at the negotiation table.

The DRVN Government's position is quite clear: only when the US gives up its aggressive design against Viet Nam will the Paris Conference be able to make headway.

President Nixon had refused to appoint a new chief of the US delegation to the Paris Conference since November 1969. That the US has had now to do so means simply a forced backdown from an arrogant move. If the US intends to make use of this to cover its obduracy, surely nobody will fall a dupe to it.

The attitude of the DRVN Government has been one of seriousness and willingness to negotiate a settlement of the Viet Nam issue on the sensible basis of the so-called overall solution advocated by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

No peace hoax nor any insolent threat of the US can sway the iron determination of the Vietnamese people in their just struggle for their fundamental national rights.

Question: Could you tell us when Minister Xuan Thuy will return to Paris?

Answer: Minister Nuan Thuy's return to Hanoi to report to the Government on the Paris conference is a matter of routine.

PLAF attacking the Mai Loc (Quang Tri)
"Special Forces" Camp, April 10, 1970

In the First Half of 1970

SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE KEPT UP AND CONSOLIDATED THEIR OFFENSIVE POSTURE AND WON SUBSTANTIAL SUCCESS

- ★ 230,000 Enemy Troops Put out of Action
- ★ 4,200 Aircraft Downed or Destroyed
- ★ 10,000 Military Vehicles Including 6,000 Tanks and Armoured Cars Wrecked
- ★ 250 Ships and Combat Launches Sunk
- ★ 1,500 Heavy Guns and Mortars and 500 Logistic Depots Put out of Commission

(Communiqué of the South Viet Nam PLAF Command)

THE Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces issued on July 1, 1970 a communiqué on the successes obtained by the South Viet Nam patriotic forces in the first six months of 1970. The communiqué said that in the period under review important events had taken place throughout the Indochinese peninsula, marking a new turn in the revolutionary development in that region.

In the spring of 1970 (January-March) the PLAF caused heavy damage to the enemy and upset his "pacification" program. The Lao patriotic forces also recorded a great achievement by regaining control of the Plain of Jars-Xiang Khoang strategic area.

To get out of their quagmire, the US imperialists staged on March 18 a coup d'état in Cambodia to stave off the failure of "Vietnamization," scotch the revolutionary movement in Cambodia and turn her into a US military base and new-type colony.

Developments in Indochina, especially in Cambodia, thwarted the ambition of the US imperialists. The National United Front and the National Union Royal Government of Cambodia were established; the National Liberation Armed Forces grew rapidly. Half of the country and millions of people were liberated, forming a vast and solid rear base

for the Cambodian resistance to US aggression.

The Lao people and armed forces entirely liberated the provinces of Attapeu and Saravane and put out of action 16,000 enemy troops. The South Vietnamese people continued to achieve great successes. An anti-US front was set up by the three Indochinese peoples to enable them to strengthen their unity and increase mutual assistance until victory and enlist greater support from the world's peoples.

In the first half of 1970, the South Vietnamese people put out of action nearly

230,000 enemy troops, downed or destroyed 4,200 aircraft, wrecked 10,000 military vehicles including 6,000 tanks and armoured cars, sank 250 ships and combat launches, put out of commission 1,500 heavy guns and mortars and over 500 logistic depots, demolished a great part of "strategic hamlets" and extended their control to new areas.

The successes of the Indochinese peoples landed the US imperialists and their quislings in a predicament plagued by divergences and

(Continued page 8)



SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND IDEOLOGICAL REASONS

(II)

THESE professions of faith made by Nguyen Manh Con and Chu Tu speak volumes for the morality and intellectual probity of all the knights of the anti-communist literary crusade whose private life gives us useful information about the motivation of their works. A from a boy of 21, Nguyen Manh Con served as informer and spy for the Japanese, Chiang Kai-shek troops, the French and the Yankos and their lackeys after spending a short spell in the Resistance. With regard to Chu Tu, after having the August 1945 Revolution, he turned his coat and went and lived under the protection of the French and then the Americans. After his surrender to imperialism in the first Resistance War, Doan Quoc Sy went South in 1954 and set up a literary group living on USOM subsidies. Vu Hong Chuong, Dinh Hung and many others are perfect examples of debauchery and immorality.

The anti-communist literature in Saigon covers a most varied range, going from the most thumpings of the Goebbels type to Klosterial or Camusian subtleties. It does its best to vilify North Viet Nam and the socialist countries, using frequently the propaganda words widely distributed in the Western hemisphere. It vindicates more or less discreetly the "free world" and the Americans.

Each writer has his own way of attacking communism. Instead of pecking his novels with communist characters, Chu Tu makes vague reference to them in his works, giving them only minor roles. His craft consists in victimizing, by some details or words thrown at random, the "Viet Cong" are barbarous, cruel, fanatical and incapable of all human sentiments.

Nguyen Manh Con shamelessly distorts the truth. In his too-page book *Lost in History*, he queerly interpreted the August 1945 Revolution which - no historian of good sense dares to contest - put an end to an age-old bondage, by saying: "Our fellow-countrymen have found, in the morning after, that national independence differs nothing from foreign domination..." "It is a criminal upheaval," he went on, "a chaos, a disorder with unforgivable errors." For him, naturally, North Viet Nam has been turned into a hell where abound scenes of carnage, forced labour, horrible vendettas, etc.

The courageous fighters taking part in the Resistance against French colonialism were also taken to task. The worse insinuations were concocted against them. Thus in the play *Bitten*, Doan Kien twists facts, showing a Viet Minh militant who gives up his ideal after the melodramatic suicide of his daughter. On this subject, a Saigon critic said that "Doan Kien seems to be in too great a hurry and fails to consider his artifice."

In the play *The Tree of Suffering*, Doan Quoc Sy resorts to allegory which is easier for him to make people swallow his grave affirmations. He dreams of an Olymp in which the Emperor of Hsien severely castigates a communist leader.

Let's note that since US implantation in South Viet Nam in 1954, the anti-communist propaganda has seen the spectrum of its themes shrink gradually, as plainly shown in literary creations. Ngo Dinh Diem began by jumping all former resistance members under a "Viet Cong" head. He paid dear for this strategic error as he could vainly rally them to isolate the communists. After his downfall, the anti-communist literature has lost much of its superciliousness, its authors having sensed the imminence of defeat. Instead of clamouring overtly for bloodshed and reprisals, it lowers the tone without losing for this virulence and obstinacy, chiefly after the Tet 1968 popular offensives. Saigon has had to admit in its language the word "peace" tabooed since long because of the war to the knife against the VC's. The "paywar" was quick in using it, trying to demoralize the people up in arms and to win the people's fighters to a life in capitulation. Hence a copious "compassion" literature was born which depicts the horrors of war, blurring the difference between the patriotic war for liberation and the war of aggression. It is in this vein

Irrational, Brutality and Pornography

JUSTICE should be done to Ngo Dinh Diem for having unconsciously put forward, prompted by his neo-colonialist convictions, the problem of ideological struggle. He said: "This war does not only have the number of military men. It is a war which confronts an ideology with another" (*Cach Mang Chinh*, April 22, 1954).

In his message of April 17, 1956 to the "Constitutional Assembly," Diem made clear his conceptions: "This basis of the regime can be but spiritualism. The only road to follow is personalism."

It was at the "Cultural Congress" in January 1957 that the official politico-philosophic doctrine was introduced, and was licked into shape by Ngo Dinh Nhu, Diem's brother and political advisor. It held that the secret of the economic and military might of the West, which school Asia should follow, lay essentially in the faith in god and his spirit.

Diem's spiritualism (*Duy Tinh*) seemed to be a coarse revival of Thomism for the needs of opposition to dialectical materialism. In fact, Nhu's cogitations were so hazy that even among his intimates there was only a dialectical materialism. What was certain was that they led to a mediocrity regime moulded on absolute monarchy. The politico-philosophic regime of Viet Nam has ever been established on state management not by people's representatives, but by a king and some clericalist ministers. This conception has yielded excellent results." (Ngo Dinh Diem in an interview with *Le Figaro* in 1959). Diem's dictatorship shed so much innocent blood in the name of personalism that J.M. Domenach, chief editor of *Esprit* had more than once to deny that falsification

of the teaching of E. Mounier, his master. The 1963 putsch tolled the knell of the "spiritualist-personalist" regime and of a period of blossoming of "pro-governmental" Catholic thought. The CIA and military junta in the saddle took pains to find a politico-philosophic doctrine. In the anti-communist angle, it favored, besides US pragmatism of all shades, the spreading of western ideologies which degrade man and turn the Vietnamese people away from their struggle for national salvation.

The socio-psychological climate in Saigon was favourable to it. There was first the credibility gap caused by Diem's downfall which left vacuum unable to be filled by any other quelling. Then the war of aggression reached an unheard-of degree of horror with heinous crimes committed by the US expeditionary forces, B-52, toxic chemicals, etc. The massive introduction of wealthy and pleasure-seeking legionaries generated great disturbance chiefly in the towns: frenzied rush for rent for the needs of the black market, inflation of the piastre, proliferation of vice and of prostitution, insecurity of the future, social chaos. On the other hand, there was also the irresistible march of the revolutionary movement. One understands the confusion of the ruling classes and some urban strata bound up with the latter or politically amorphous.

It is a hotbed for the currents of thought issued from the irrational of a world in a blind alley leading to nihilism. The conditions of crisis responsible for the birth of that philosophy in the Germany of 1918 and France at the end of World War II, are found again in South Viet Nam, at least in occupied towns and cities. But the Vietnamese existentialism takes on other hues. Without speaking of its sifting through narrow circles of Catholic and Buddhist intellectuals, it is spread less under the form of voluminous philosophical treatises than through short essays, poems, tales and novels. Basically reactionary, it floats criticism of the bourgeois society which are not lacking among the western existentialists. So Jean Paul Sartre does not always enjoy their partiality. He is embarrassing, even dangerous with his acceptance of historical materialism - though he rejects dialectical materialism - and especially with his position on the Viet Nam war.

Camus who has many works translated into foreign languages, is a writer well-known in Saigon. His *La Peste* (Plague) makes it possible to put up with everything in a country where the aggressor's arrogance and crimes are as clear as daylight; you must bear the misfortune which swoops down on you so preposterously, fate has willed so. *Le Mythe de Sisyphe* (Sisyphus's Myth) appraises the conscience of the faint-hearted petty-bourgeois who dare not take to the streets against the Yankee. It is not the revolutionary effort as futile as the work of that son of Aelus?

Existentialists like are plentifully exploited by a cheap literature, nurtured by an unwelcome and perverse people who cover their irresponsibility, vice and immorality with an elegant philosophical veil. The revolt against reality is quite platonic and verbal: "I live in the thick of a war, but I do not care for the war, the tragedy which is unfolding against my fate and that of others" (Duong Nghiem Mau, *Night*, 1965). While virtue is also as absurd as vice, Chu Tu professes: "Motherland, justice, fraternity, friendship, love, all this is but dupery" (*Live*). "Natural complexes inherent in so-called honest citizens should radically be eradicated" (*Love*). The hero in *Death* by Thuy Thien, who is the search of life: he joins the army, loots, rapes, tortures and then shoots at his leg so as to be d-mobbed, all this without any conviction.

The queer meditations on existence and nothingness are to justify the adventure itself, brutality, murder and lewdness - nice themes which the US recruitment centres do not fail to get hold of. Eminent writers thus serves psywar and pornography. In *Soldier's Love*, the first Saigonese novel translated into English, Van Luong eulogizes a young woman who offers her body simultaneously to four officers, he glorifies the bestial instincts of man. A dozen "woman of letters" including Nguyen Thi Hong, Tuy Hong, Tuy Vu, won fame with their erotic and even pornographic novels. A book has a provoking title: *On Ways of Inventing a Woman's Body*. Speaking of the literature in occupied areas in 1960, the Saigon paper *Chinh*

the results obtained during the 4 years of resistance to US aggression. Faced with a fierce war of destruction the North Vietnamese economy was able, however, to accomplish great strategic tasks incumbent on it: to meet the requirements of national defence, keep traffic flowing and cater for the fundamental needs of the people's life.

It is a far-reaching victory of strategic importance, which made a decisive contribution to the common victory of the people in both zones of Viet Nam. In the extremely difficult conditions inherent in a country not very large in size and in population, with an under-developed, even backward, economy and compelled to confront the imperialist cheating who possesses unequalled economic and military potentials, our people really worked wonders. We have every reason to be proud of the vitality of our people and of the vigour of our regime, and the bombs, whatever their number, failed to subdue us.

After highlighting the successes in various fields, the rapporteur holds that one of the important results is that:

After over a year's activity since the founding of the DRVN, we have had a clearer view on our economy, on the most pressing economic problems and on the orientation to be given to their solution.

At present, North Viet Nam's economy remains essentially one of small production, with an indifferent standard of production and productivity; yet we have to surpass ourselves to answer the enormous needs of the resistance distribution of goods in accordance with socialist principles, see to a decent living standard for our people, while gradually converting people, while gradually converting people, while gradually converting people.

That is the fundamental difficulty and also the basic problem of our economy as a whole.

As on our under-developed, even backward, economy, four years of the war of destruction inflicted serious damage, we need time to wipe off all its aftermaths. On the

In the previous issues, we have published the Political Report under discussion at the 6th session in June of the DRVN National Assembly. Today we give excerpts from the economic report submitted on behalf of the government by the Chairman of the State Planning Commission (italics are ours).—Ed.

A Legitimate Pride

THE rapporteur first reviews the results obtained during the 4 years of resistance to US aggression. Faced with a fierce war of destruction the North Vietnamese economy was able, however, to accomplish great strategic tasks incumbent on it: to meet the requirements of national defence, keep traffic flowing and cater for the fundamental needs of the people's life.

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other hand, our shortcomings in economic management is also an important factor which has hampered the full development of all potentials and delayed the correction of numerous mistakes...

Nevertheless, we are in a position to surmount all the present difficulties, because we can put into operation favourable factors of a very fundamental character, namely, the judicious line, marked by inventiveness defined by our Party, the excellence of the socialist regime, the new relations of production, revolutionary enthusiasm and work capacity, the creative initiative of our people, and the valuable aid of brotherly countries.

The rapporteur enumerates other factors, among them the contingent of technicians, equipment, etc., and the quantity of capital goods which is increasing little by little.

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of agriculture and light industry and simultaneous building of a culturally-run economy and social economy.

In the building of the new structures, the key problem is the transformation of agriculture, based on individual farming and monoculture, into a collectivized, diversified agriculture capable of raising its yield rapidly and supplying many marketable products.

Based ourselves on this transformation of agriculture, we can promote a new division of labour and give a new impulse to the development of industry and other branches of the national economy, production and the productivity and the volume of social products.

With agricultural development, there is the possibility of ensuring more regular supply for light industry, and of developing it more rapidly. Precisely, the development of agriculture and the intensification of the exchanges of products between the cities and countryside, and the improvement of the people's living conditions call for a vigorous expansion of light industry parallel to that of agriculture.

Consequently, in the immediate future, we must try to boost agriculture and light industry and to achieve a leap forward in these two

The report then sets out concrete tasks for each branch of agriculture: subsidiary food crops, animal husbandry, fish rearing and afforestation. To attain the triple objective of 5 tons of paddy rice per year, 2 pigs and one man-year per hectare, it is necessary to consolidate and strengthen the agricultural co-ops, reinforce State assistance, complete various measures concerning agriculture and reinforce the concrete direction of farm work.

Tasks in the Industrial Field

PARALLEL to agricultural development, production of consumer goods must make rapid headway. It is in this branch that we shall focus our efforts in order to secure the people, intensify the exchange of goods between agriculture and industry, increase the volume of export goods and effectively contribute to the intimate accumulation of capital for socialist industrialization.

The report draws attention to fishing and the processing of aquatic products, to the food industries, cloth-making, glass and porcelain ware...

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The restoration and development of some branches of heavy industry, electricity, coal, building material, fertilizers, also constitute important tasks.

New Division of Labour and New Methods of Management

ECONOMIC building and development in the coming years call for a new distribution of the labour force between the various branches and areas, to help intensive cultivation, economic development of the midlands and uplands, better forest exploitation, fishing, production of consumer goods and export lines and development of other branches of heavy industry.

The work force remains considerable, and concentrated for a major part in agriculture where a new organization will help free abundant manpower for other branches. The development of industry and handicrafts will absorb this manpower. State services must proceed towards a more rational employment of their staffs. For years, the schools have trained many technicians and skilled workers. The problem is to make a rational use of them. Great care must be given to the health and welfare of the workers.

In the years to come, a system of economic management must be built in a way suitable to the structures of our economy which is switching over from small to large-scale production. This is an important job.

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DRVN MAJOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Present Tasks

AFTER pointing to the economic tasks in the general situation, the report says:

At present we must re-organize our economy, restore and improve the methods of management, and step by step stabilize the life of the people and gradually normalize the economic activity in keeping with the requirements of the present situation.

While concentrating our efforts on solving post-war problems, we must endeavour to develop the socialist economy, step by step build the economic structures as defined by the line of development laid down for the initial stage we have to go through. This general line consists in giving priority to the rational development of heavy industry on the basis of the expansion

Agricultural Development

THE report defines the task of agriculture as follows: to solve the food problem and advance towards a diversified and multilateral agriculture.

There is the possibility not only to raise the rice yield but also increase the acreage and output of subsidiary food crops. Many regions can do it. The acreage under spring rice must be extended, and the fight against water logging caused by heavy rains will make it possible to expand the acreage under autumn rice; the use of new strains of rice combined with better hydraulics and other techniques will help raise rice output.

While ensuring routine aid to rice growing areas, the State will concentrate its efforts on regions where the cultivated areas are large and which are susceptible of perfecting their hydraulic system rapidly.

Checking pumping-boats destined to agricultural co-operatives

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D.R.V.N. FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPOSES CONTINUED AMERICAN AGGRESSION AGAINST CAMBODIA

Excerpts from a DRVN Foreign Ministry Statement on July 3, 1970

On June 30 last, the US imperialists had to pull US troops out of Cambodia. US President Nixon took this occasion to reiterate his "desire for peace" and boast of an imaginary US victory in an effort to cover US criminal aggression in Cambodia.

Although forced to withdraw its troops from Cambodia, it is actually continuing its aggression there with puppet troops from Saigon and Thailand who are tramping on the land of Cambodia and massacring Khmer civilians. The US is escalating the war with savage air raids on Cambodia's territory. It is increasing military aid to the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, its henchmen, and pressuring its satellites to supply the war with weapons and men. It is keeping US troops handy for another direct aggression against Cambodia. At the same time it is stepping up the special war against the Lao people, while trying to carry out its "Vietnamization" to prolong the aggression in South Viet Nam, and insolently threatening the DRVN with aerial provocations, as it actually did in the first days of May last.

It is thus clear that the Nixon Administration is still nurturing the illusory dream of a military victory and clinging to the hope for a negotiating position of strength. Therefore Nixon's "desire for peace" and "negotiations for a just peace" double-talk is but a smoke-screen for US criminal prolongation and expansion.

tion of the war of aggression against the Indochinese countries. Nixon's insolent threats have only revealed further the bellicosity and absurdity of US imperialism. Decidedly they cannot shake the iron determination of the three Indochinese peoples to strengthen their unity and fight together till complete victory over the US imperialist aggressors and their lackeys.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN warmly hail the heroic Khmer people's glorious success represented by the US forced withdrawal of its troops from Cambodia. The Vietnamese people give full support to the sound position made clear by Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in his statement of June 30, 1970 which condemned the continuation of US aggression in Cambodia and demanded Nixon to stop using air forces of the US, the Saigon puppet administration and the reactionaries in Thailand against Cambodia's territory, and a speedy, unconditional pull-out from Cambodia of all the forces of the henchmen of the US in Saigon and Bangkok.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government firmly believe that the Khmer people, in their militant solidarity with the peoples of Viet Nam and Laos and backed by the vigorous sympathy and support from the socialist countries and the peace- and justice-loving people in the world, will record yet bigger achievements.

The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia issued on July 3 a statement strongly denouncing the traitorous Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique's so-called "verdict" on Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

The statement declared that the Royal Government of National Union would bring the traitors in Phnom Penh to trial before a people's tribunal after final victory. The statement read:

"According to foreign news agencies' dispatches from Phnom Penh, the traitorous 'government' and usurpers of constitutional power, the fascist reactionary Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, has, after spending three months in fabricating evidence and finding 'witnesses', established a military tribunal to pass a 'judgment' on Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia."

"While vigorously denouncing this action of the traitorous Lon Nol-Sirik Matak 'government' as an offence without precedent in the annals of the Kingdom of Cambodia and even in international practice, the Royal Government of National Union wishes to underline the illegality and anti-constitutional character of the so-called 'Sihanouk trial'."

"In fact, according to the Constitution of the Kingdom, 'the person of the supreme Head of State is sacred and inviolable'."

"Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is not only Head of State of Cambodia, but is also recognized as a national hero by the entire nation for having led his people and Motherland to complete independence when he was King."

"Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is a Head of State whose efforts in safeguarding the independence, territorial integrity and peace in neutrality of Cambodia and in her all-sided construction have commanded the respect and admiration of foreign countries and of well-known personalities of the 'free' world and even the United States of America."

The statement continued:

"The traitorous Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique have shamelessly violated the Constitution of the Kingdom and the elementary principles of democracy and law by charging Samdech Norodom Sihanouk with treason on the ground of his collusion with foreign troops in attacks on the Cambodian people. This was aimed at satisfying their hatred for the Head of State of Cambodia who struggles to prevent them from selling the country to the US imperialists."

"During the past 15 years until the coup d'etat of the usurpers of constitutional power in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, under the leadership of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State, enjoyed peace and progress. This fact has been recognized by all foreign observers including Americans."

"This peace had been achieved thanks to the policy approved at that time also by the Phnom Penh traitors themselves."

"We wish to emphatically point out that the foreign policy pursued by Cambodia until March 18, 1970, was one of national independence, peace and neutrality."

"Being neutral, Cambodia had refused to become a party to the US aggression in South Viet Nam."

"In this connection, attention should be paid to the following:

"In South Viet Nam, cynically violating the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the US imperialist aggressors have been carrying on a war of aggression against the Vietnamese people."

"In this war of aggression, the US imperialist aggressors have utilized their paid agents, from Ngo Dinh Diem to Thieu-Ky-Kiem, against the resistance of the Vietnamese people who have been fighting to recover their freedom and independence."

"In face of this situation, the Cambodian people, like all other peoples cherishing peace, freedom and justice, must take a clear stand against the aggressor (the US imperialists) and for the victim of aggression (the Vietnamese people), that is to say, against those who resort to 'the jungle law' to implement their imperialist and colonialist policy who fight in defence of their legitimate right to live."

"The Cambodian people cannot tolerate the Vietnamese people's legitimate right to live being violated and trampled underfoot by the US imperialist aggressors who have come from more than 10,000 kilometres away to invade our fraternal neighbour, the Vietnamese people."

Our group included a cameraman from Phnom Penh, a photographer from Siem Reap, two typists from Battambang and Kien Giang Cham, and myself, a journalist from Tonle Sap.

"Phnom Penh Trial" Farce Denounced by Cambodian Royal Government of National Union

"The Vietnamese people's patriotic forces have never attacked the Cambodian people, whereas the US Saigon armed forces, according to the White Paper distributed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Government at the beginning of 1970, have committed against the Cambodian people from 1962 to May 1969:

"1,864 encroachments and attacks on the territory, 165 encroachments and attacks on our territorial waters, 5,149 encroachments and attacks from the air, killing 293 and wounding 600 people among our national defence forces and civilians, including children, women and old people."

"This tragic list shows clearly and irrefutably that those who 'attack the Cambodian people' are none other than the US imperialists and their Saigon lackeys."

"A few days after their March 18, 1970 coup d'etat, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, usurpers of constitutional

power and traitors to the Motherland, committed the most dastardly crime against the Cambodian people in dispatching their soldiers and armoured cars to massacre hundreds of defenceless children, women and old people whose sole crime was to dare have peaceful demonstrations against the coup d'etat and demand the return of Samdech Head of State."

"The Phnom Penh traitors have committed the most barbarous genocidal crimes against Vietnamese living in Cambodia. They have been condemned unanimously by public opinion throughout the world, including American opinion."

"In face of the vigorous resistance of the Cambodian people who, in response to the solemn and historic call of Samdech Head of State of March 23, 1970, have risen up en masse against the usurpers of constitutional power in the pay of the US imperialists, the fascist and reactionary Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique has called for help from

the US armed forces and those of the Saigon and Bangkok puppets."

"This clique has sold Cambodia out to the US imperialists and their Saigon and Bangkok lackeys, the very persons who have refused to recognize the present borders of our country."

"A great part of our beloved Motherland is today still occupied by the American-paid armed forces of Saigon and Bangkok who have committed all sorts of crimes ranging from systematic destruction of our cities and villages to such barbarous acts as pillage, rape and violence against our women and young girls."

"Recently, the so-called Ministry of Information of the puppet Lon Nol-Sirik Matak administration has been forced to admit these crimes committed by the mercenaries of its Saigon masters."

"The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique was so cynical as to confirm that it had appealed and would continue to

appeal to the air forces of the US imperialists and of its Saigon and Bangkok masters to strike at Cambodian civilians and to raze to the ground their villages and houses."

"The nation, our people, the whole world are clearly aware of these facts. "Our people can judge and declare which is for the Cambodian people and which is against the Cambodian people, the progressive camp or the US camp."

The statement stressed:

"The Royal Government of National Union who held a cabinet meeting on July 2, 1970, declared solemnly that it did not recognize the right of the traitors and usurpers of constitutional power in Phnom Penh to try Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, and dismissed the 'Sihanouk trial' as illegal. Accordingly, the RGNU rejects in advance, in the name of the FUNK, any sentence passed by the so-called military tribunal set up by the traitors to the Motherland."

"The RGNU has put down in its political programme the eventual trial of all the Phnom Penh traitors and all their collaborators guilty of high treason and of crimes against the Cambodian people, by a people's tribunal which will restore the legal integrity is restored in the country."

"The RGNU affirms its unshakable will to bring all these traitors before the people's tribunal after final victory."

Cambodia Facing US Aggression

KHMER YOUTH UP IN ARMS

The sun was high above in the sky. The May heat beat down on our yellow-green car. In the azure sky the wind drifted the white clouds into countless angels and demons which looked like those described in our legends. We went past immense and luxuriant fields criss-crossed with paths leading to various phums (villages) and sokhs (districts).

Our group included a cameraman from Phnom Penh, a photographer from Siem Reap, two typists from Battambang and Kien Giang Cham, and myself, a journalist from Tonle Sap.

It was no accident that we were given this special assignment by the Information Office of the National United Front of Kampuchea. We were so because since the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak coup d'etat had stood up to many tests, our theatre of operations stretched from A to N and its size and hectic activity kept us constantly on the move. Now we took part in the Cambodian National Liberation actions on posts held by the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak troops. Now we accompanied patriotic houses in visits to our fellow-countrymen and helped them rebuild their houses destroyed by the Khmer-Ky aviation, mortar or artillery. Now we went together with the khmer (provision) or sokh officials and organized a meeting for the establishment of the administration in the newly liberated areas.

Wherever we went we were offered food and board and shown great affection by the population. We were regarded as genuine revolutionary sons of the Cambodian nation by the old folk and dedicatedly looked after by the Cambodian liberation troops. The more we travelled about, the more we loved our country. Though Cambodia has only 180,000 square kilometres with 7 million people, it has been nearly 2,000 years in existence and has a brilliant record of struggle against foreign invasion. It has moreover a beautiful scenery and famous monuments like the Angkor temples. Though our people are hospitable and fond of arts, they are impatient of aggression against which they always rise up, following in the steps of Pohnpuk Sivatha, Ichar Sot, Ichar Hemchinn...

At present, their enemy are none other than the American imperialist invaders and their servants, the Thieu-Ky-Kiem of South Viet Nam, the Phanom Kittahachorn of Thailand and the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak traitors who have invited foreigners to trample upon the national soil and have been savaging their own people. "Even the old folk have to take arms against the American aggressors" swore 70-year-old Yen, hair flying about, a match in his hand, at a meeting to set up a liberation committee. His fiery figure and words filled me with emotion and pride and reminded me of our forefathers battling against the Thai feudalists more than a thousand years ago, whose images have been carved into the Angkor temples' stone walls. We were confident that in a not distant future the Khmer people would certainly liberate their country and sweep out the US-puppet demons. And then, our friends the world over can again come and visit our beautiful land and its fine sites. Our streets will be decked out to welcome Head of State Sihanouk returning in triumph to Phnom Penh. Our countryfolk will gladly dance the Lam Thon and ask friends to climb into their houses on stilts and sit on their

poorly mats, eat their best rice and drink their delicious that not.

At 17:15 we arrived at the last assembly point where Khmer youth met before going up the line. There the place was humming like a beehive. Scores of Honda, Vespa and countless bicycles of various colors were hid in the bushes. Hundreds of young Khmers, male and female, standing or sitting, were waiting for their turns to register their name and get a rifle. On the edges of gardens other people clad in sarong were lying in hammocks, talking and laughing freely. They had enlisted. I went to a nearby house. Here, more than a hundred new drafted Khmer girls were learning how to dress wounds, carry stretchers, or helping pound rice, paring vegetables, drawing chickens for the evening meal. The kids, children of the house-owners, were also all in a bustle, mimicking their brothers and sisters.

At 19:30 the lamps were lit. The moon had risen above the that not. A gentle breeze was sweeping the fields. The recruits now gathered in groups were discussing their duties to the fatherland and their behaviour toward their fellow-countrymen. Each time they took the floor the girls stood at attention like seasoned servicemen. Sitting in their houses on stilts the housewives chatted merrily, obviously pleased with the new life since liberation.

I went out of the phum to the oath-taking ceremony for the newly enlisted youth. The paths were crowded with people, motor-bicycles and leopards. Five thousand men and women were waiting, nearly a half of them recruits, mostly dressed in tight seams and variegated shirts. Among them were also Lon Nol's

armymen and policemen who had crossed over but still kept their uniforms. Most of them had transistors. Some had already been issued rifles. Everybody was in an optimistic mood. At a sudden blow of a whistle the crowd assembled in groups before the rostrum. The ceremony began. At one point, the recruits knelt down to take the oath under the banner of the Fatherland, pledging allegiance to the National United Front of Kampuchea. I was stirred as if I myself heard the sacred call of the Fatherland. After the swearing-in, the platoons and companies underwent military drill, performing the basic movements of a new soldier.

The night wore on. Here and there some recruits still made the last preparations for their next morning march. I gazed at the vault of the sky. On this blue of a night, the endless immensity were profiled endless rows of that not, their branches looking like determined sentries guarding our phums for us to go and fight the aggressors. We were going the length and breadth of our Cambodian Fatherland after the US devils and their hirelings.

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SAM LENH
Cambodian journalist



CAMBODIA

1,350 Saigon Puppet Troops Wiped Out in Three Days

ACCORDING to the Information Bureau of the National United Front of Kampuchea, the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces, in the three days ending June 28, fiercely attacked the Saigon puppet multi-battalion 318 and the two puppet armoured regiments 5 and 18 in Pean Cheong and Chup areas, Kompong Cham province, wiping out 1,350 enemy troops, destroying nearly 70 tanks or armoured vehicles.

On June 26, the CNLA completely put out of action the Saigon puppet commando battalion 31 in Pean Cheong, killing or wounding more than 260 enemy troops.

On June 27, the CNLA intercepted 4 infantry battalions and 5 armoured squadrons coming from Saigon to the rescue of Battalion 31, taking a toll of more than 600 enemy troops, destroying more than 40 tanks and armoured vehicles.

The next day, the CNLA mounted an attack on the enemy in Chup area, north of Pean Cheong, inflicting nearly 500 Saigon puppet casualties, captured many others, and blasted out of commission 28 tanks and armoured vehicles.

DRVN Major Economic Problems

(Continued from page 3)

which must be studied carefully and carried out in the course of many years.

These new measures will result in the stabilization of the activity of the enterprises which must be governed by economic regularity and business accountability.

We must augment the initiative power of the enterprises, particularly in the financial field, and this within the framework of the responsibilities the State has assigned them so as to make use of all their potential, boost production and obtain better economic results. The responsibilities and powers of the director must be enhanced.

Greater initiative power will supply

facilities for direct economic relations and contractual relations among the various economic units...

The process of the division of responsibilities for economic management between the central administration and the localities, already started, must continue. This is a new problem whose solution goes in par with the establishment of a more balanced development of agriculture and industry, on a nationwide as well as local scale. The problems of planning have also been envisaged.

In conclusion, the report affirms the possibility to realize the defined objectives. The economic restoration and development will go hand in hand with increasingly important successes against US aggression.

From One Deception to Another

On June 24, 1970, by an overwhelming majority of 81 to 19, the US Senate voted for the repeal of the so-called "Gulf of Tonkin" Resolution. This Resolution, passed on August 7, 1964 by the House of Representatives and Senate meeting in Congress, ruled that "The Congress approves and supports the determination of the President as Commander-in-Chief to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression... The United States is prepared, as the President determines, to take all necessary steps including the use of armed force, to assist any member or protocol state of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty requesting assistance in defence of its freedom."

The "Gulf of Tonkin" Resolution was passed following the alleged attacks against two US destroyers, the *Turner Joy* and the *Maddox*, by North Vietnamese ships on August 2 and 4, 1964. On August 7, 1964, the Government of the DRVN made public a declaration denouncing Washington's "shameful fabrication" as a move to give the US a pretext for extending the war of aggression in Viet Nam.

At the August 7, 1964 session of the US Congress, only two senators, Ernest Gruening and Wayne Morse, voted against the "Gulf of Tonkin" Resolution. The United States, Senator Morse declared, had framed the whole thing because it was the Americans who had fired first on the off-shore islands of North Viet Nam.

Thus, with the backing of an almost unanimous Congress, the Johnson administration began the escalation: the whole air power of the United States was thrown against North Viet Nam in the hope of carrying the day within a few weeks while in the South, American contingents landed en masse. At the same time, the Americans started bombing the whole territory of Laos, and the first raids were made even without the knowledge of the nominal head of the Vietnamese regime, Prince Souvanna Phouma.

It did not take those who had given the August 7, 1964 blank cheque to the US Chief Executive long to be disappointed. The main cause of this change of heart lay in the repeated setbacks suffered by the neo-colonialist aggressors in Viet Nam. The first important dissent surfaced among the US ruling circles in early 1966 following the failure of the first dry-season counter-offensive in South Viet Nam and the

first proofs of the "toughness" of North Viet Nam. January 1966: Senator Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the first time questioned the wisdom of August 7, 1964 vote. Doubt gradually spread to other congressmen and many personalities in the US political circles. Through heated congressional debates, especially in August 1967 and February 1968, a bitter fight opposed the defenders of the escalation policy to those politicians awakened to the realities of a war as costly as unpromising. Truth gradually dawned upon the fact that the story of North Vietnamese torpedo boats taking on the *Turner Joy* and *Maddox* was a sheer fabrication by the US government. By retracting this process of awakening of American conscience, the American journalist Joseph Gallowden has arrived at this conclusion in his book *Truth Is the First Casualty*: the "Gulf of Tonkin" incident is a "multilevel deception" and in the first place "a deception of the Congress and the American people" by the administration.

Such Machiavellian methods and lies as political means were, in fact, resorted to quite frequently by Johnson in handling the Vietnamese problem. However, he has been outstripped in this respect by his successor, Richard Nixon. Taking over the grisly heritage of Johnson, the new president of the United States has been facing up to an American opinion and a Congress more and more critical of the war. The bellicose Nixon, forced to row against the stream, has, in some respects, intensified the war in Viet Nam and has even expanded it to Cambodia. He must justify a policy that has been less and less acceptable to American opinion; therefore, the deceptions and sophistries used by Nixon have exceeded in scale and quantity those of his predecessor. He has been trying hard to make believe that the vote on the "Gulf of Tonkin" Resolution has nothing to do with him, but as President and Commander-in-Chief he has the right and duty to see to the safety of nearly half a million American soldiers over there. His cynism has indeed gone beyond every limit! To believe him, the best way to ensure the safety of his "boys" is not to break with the policy hitherto pursued and to bring to some use an honourable negotiated settlement.

By ordering the invasion of Cambodian territory by American units, Nixon actually acted over the head of the US Senate; thereafter, he resorted to lies, not to ask for congressional authorization as Johnson had done,

but to try to justify the measure he had himself decided: everyone now knows the fantastic figures he had many times given on the American television about imaginary US successes in Cambodian territory.

Truth and with it the whole American nation continue to be the casualties of the manoeuvres of a president. The US policy in Viet Nam is relying more and more on downright deceptions. The discovery of this hard fact has not failed to touch off vigorous reactions from public opinion and there have been more and more signs of

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SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE...

(Continued from page 1)

difficulties. The adverse situation can be summed up as follows:

1. Enemy forces were more and more thinned out, his weak points exposed and his war equipment badly damaged. His defensive posture was more shaky.

2. Enemy "rural pacification" plan, the key-point of his Vietnamization policy, scored another setback.

3. The Nixon clique's political isolation grew more serious in the US and the world, especially since the aggression of Cambodia by US and Saigon puppet troops.

4. The Saigon puppet administration went on deteriorating; its inner differences were aggravated by the

unremitting stubborn struggle of the townsfolk.

5. Nixon's war intensification policy generated in the States a serious economic and financial crisis which boomeranged on the dependent economy of the Saigon puppet administration.

THE communiqué ended with an appeal to the entire people in South Viet Nam, including the officers and men in the PLAF, to press their advantage and overcome all difficulties created by the development of the revolution in order to bring the resistance to US aggression and the rest of the Indo-chinese peoples to complete victory.

